

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5, 7-24 and 26-34 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7-20, 33 and 34 are allowed. Claims 1, 2, 14, 16, 21 and 32-34 are independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 21 and 32 are hereby amended, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

As claim 21 has been amended, Applicants respectfully request the rejection to claims 22-24 and 26-31, which depends on claim 21, be withdrawn.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-24 and 26-32 are patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that pending claims 1-5, 7-24 and 26-34 are allowable.

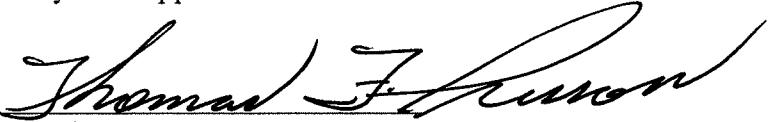
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Ph: (212) 588-0800
Fax: (212) 588-0500